

Mr and the Mrs, Ms, and Miss  
by lydia ireland

Mrs.  
a woman in love,  
maybe not anymore.  
taken.  
who took the name of her husband.  
her name has been gone for years now.  
replaced with gray hairs and wrinkles  
from her husband's children

Ms.  
a woman caught up in secrecy.  
a single old hag?  
a victim of divorce?  
a prude who refuses to share her life with the world  
selfish that she won't tell us

Miss  
a woman who hasn't settled down.  
negligent of her future  
and too childish.  
still a child as she has her father's name.  
"when's that wedding?"  
"it's about time we have some grandkids around here, huh?"

Mrs. and Ms. get periods.  
married. end of sentence.  
ms. none of your business.  
Miss is weighted by question marks

Miss questions her title  
and why women are defined before they even get to share their name.

Mr.  
a man not confined to his title.  
Mr. is  
young and old  
married and a widower  
recently divorced and in a happy relationship  
"Mr" produces no image or stereotype  
"Mr" has no prior notions

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Mrs, Ms, and Miss are not who they are.  
they are women.  
women that should not be constrained to an abbreviation  
they are women with voices.  
women with names.